



PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2008. OMB 0851-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(fill in as many sheets as necessary)</i>		<b>Complete if Known</b>			
		Application Number	10/084,417		
		Filing Date	2/28/2002		
		First Named Inventor	M. Ezumi, et al.		
		Art Unit	1725		
Sheet	1	of	1	Examiner Name	J. Johnson
				Attorney Docket Number	648.40349VX3

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US- 5,971,252	10/26/1999	Rosen, et al.	
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Abstract
		Country Code <sup>2</sup> -Number <sup>3</sup> -Kind Code <sup>4</sup> (if known)				
JP X ↓ JP		JP 11-342481	12/14/1999	Nippon Light Metal Co., Ltd.		X
		JP 2000-334576	12/15/2000	Kawasaki Heavy Ind. Ltd.		X
		JP 2000-233285	8/29/2000	Hitachi Kasado Kikai Co., Ltd.		X
		JP 2001-47261	2/20/2001	Sumitomo Light Metal Ind. Ltd.		X
		JP 11-179568	7/6/1999	Nippon Light Metal Co., Ltd.		X
		EP 0 992 314	4/12/2000	Hitachi, Ltd.		
		EP 0 985 483	3/15/2000	Hitachi, Ltd.		
		EP 1 055 478	11/29/2000	Hitachi, Ltd.		
		JP 2000-202654	7/25/2000	Hitachi, Ltd.		X

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
		Communication and European Search Report mailed March 29, 2004, for No. EP 01 30 6355	
Examiner Signature	Jonathan J. Jr		Date Considered
			2/3/05

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing the this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2

The PTO did not receive the following  
listed item(s) FOR - JP 11-342481